

**PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

505 VAN NESS AVENUE  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



**Energy Division  
Undergrounding Workshop  
Dates: February 10, 2000,  
following 10:00 a.m.  
Prehearing Conference  
February 11, 2000, 10:00 a.m.  
Place: Commission Auditorium  
505 Van Ness Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94102**

Pursuant to AB 1149 (Stats. 1999, Ch. 844), and the implementing Rulemaking 00-01-005, the Energy Division has scheduled a workshop on issues pertaining to the Commission's current undergrounding program, and possible changes to that program.

AB 1149 requires the Commission to conduct a study as to ways to amend, revise, and improve the rules for the replacement of overhead electric and communications facilities with underground facilities and to submit a report on the study to the Legislature on or before January 1, 2001. The legislature also directed the Commission to include the following specific issues in its study:

- Discovering and eliminating barriers to establishing continuity of the existing underground system and ways to eliminate uneven patches of overhead facilities,
- How to enhance public safety,
- How to improve reliability, and
- How to provide more flexibility and control to local governments

In addition to these enumerated issues, the Commission also wants to look at both the broad policy issues raised by the program, as well as the details of program implementation. The Energy Division's White Paper, distributed with the Rulemaking, raises many such issues.

The goal of the first day of this workshop is to allow parties to discuss, comment upon, and if possible reach consensus on what issues need to be addressed and in what order and priority. The goal of the second day of this workshop will be to allow parties to discuss what data and information may be available through data requests, and if possible to reach a consensus among parties on needed data. The Energy Division will use information and opinions gathered at these workshops, and in any further written comments, to prepare a workshop report as directed by the Rulemaking. The Administrative Law Judge and the Assigned Commissioner will consider the workshop report in determining how to proceed in this rulemaking.

The workshop will be held in the Commission's **Auditorium**, located at 505 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, CA, on February 10 and 11, 2000. The first day of this workshop will begin immediately after the prehearing conference scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on Thursday,

February 10, 2000 and will run as late as 5:00 p.m. The second day of this workshop, also in the Auditorium, will begin at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, February 11, 2000, and will run as late as 5:00 p.m. Any member of the public may attend this workshop. The Auditorium is wheelchair-accessible.

To focus issues at the workshop, we invite all interested parties and members of the public to submit preliminary written comments or position statements. You may submit a statement even if you are unable to attend the workshop. If you wish staff to review and summarize these statements before the workshop itself, please ensure that they are received at the Commission no later than February 3, 2000. Later or updated comments will be accepted until 20 days after the workshop, and considered in the workshop report.

Such statements should be sent to:

Mark Ziering  
Energy Division, Room 4011  
CPUC  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Parties may submit further or updated comments by e-mail: [maz@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:maz@cpuc.ca.gov). Questions about the workshop may be directed to Mr. Ziering at that web address or by phone (415 703-2282). Further, from time to time, information about the workshop will be posted on Energy Division's portion of the Commission's web site, [www.cpuc.ca.gov](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov).